

Message Text

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43

ACTION AID-59

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 ISO-00 PC-15 USIA-15 IO-14 DODE-00

AGR-20 ACDA-19 INT-08 COME-00 FDRE-00 DRC-01 CIAE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 (ISO) W

----- 105988

R 111015Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1743

INFO AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA

AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

UNCLAS NOUAKCHOTT 1180

AFDROUGHT

PARIS FOR HELMAN, USEC FOR MARTIN, ADDIS FOR ADAMS, ROME FOR
FODAG.

E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJ: NEW GRAIN ALLOCATION FOR MAURITANIA.

REF: STATE 238037, NOUAKCHOTT 1149 (NOTAL)

ACTION REQUESTED. TOTAL OF 20,000 TONS BE ALLOCATED BY USG TO
MAURITANIA THROUGH SEP 30, 1974.

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1. GIRM RELIEF COORDINATOR, MINISTER OF HEALTH OULD BAH, CATEGORICALLY DENIES THAT HE OR ANY RESPONSIBLE GIRM OFFICIAL INFORMED FAO MISSION LAST OCTOBER THAT 58,000 TONS WERE MAXIMUM THIS GOVT COULD DISTRIBUTE DURING PERIOD THROUGH SEPT 30, 1974. (STATE REFTEL PARA 3). MINISTER STATED GIRM HAS PROVEN IT CAN DISTRIBUTE BETWEEN NINE AND THIRTEEN THOUSAND TONS PER MONTH. THIS WOULD GIVE TOTAL DISTRIBUTION CAPABILITY OF 108,000 - 156,000 MT OVER 12-MONTH PERIOD. IMPEDIMENT TO GIRM'S ATTAINING MAX DISTRIBUTION CAPABILITY RELATES TO SPACING OF DELIVERIES FROM ABROAD, NOT TO GIRM'S ALLEGED LIMITATIONS.

2. FOREGOING WAS ELICITED IN COURSE OF DEC 8 MEETING CHAIRED BY MINISTER WHICH I ATTENDED ALONG WITH RDO DAKAR, GERMAN AND SPANISH AMBASSADORS, FRENCH EMBASSY COUNSELOR AND REPS OF FED, WFP AND UNDP. PURPOSE OF MEETING WAS TO PROVIDE THIS YEAR'S PRINCIPAL DONORS WITH MINISTER'S FIRST HAND REVIEW OF RELIEF PROGRAM TO DATE AND TO HEAR HIS OUTLINE OF 1974 NEEDS. MINISTER NOTED AT OUTSET, HOWEVER, THAT HE COULD NOT PROVIDE DEFINITIVE GIRM REQUESTS TO POTENTIAL DONORS PRIOR PRESIDENT OULD DADDAH'S DEC 20 MEETING WHICH WOULD REVIEW OVERALL SITUATION WITH SENIOR PROVINCIAL AND PARTY OFFICIALS. MINISTER STATED THAT HE UNDERSTOOD PRESIDENT INTENDED LIMIT GIRM'S SOLICITATION OF FOREIGN ASSISTANCE THROUGH MAXIMIZING GIRM'S OWN PURCHASES OF NEEDED FOOD GRAINS. NONETHELESS, MINISTER CONTINUED, HE COULD AFFIRM AT THIS POINT THAT COUNTRY WOULD NEED FOREIGN DONATIONS AND HE HOPED THOSE WHO HAD GIVEN LAST YEAR WOULD ASSIST ONCE AGAIN. HE ESTIMATED GIRM WOULD TRY PURCHASE AT LEAST 20 PERCENT OF ITS NEEDS, BUT KNEW PRESIDENT WANTED IT TO BUY AS MUCH AS BUDGET WOULD PERMIT.

3. MAURITANIA NEEDS, OULD BAH STATED, ON ORDER OF 100,000 MT OF IMPORTED GRAINS TO SEE IT THROUGH UNTIL BEGINNING OF NEXT HARVEST. STOCKS IN HAND, PLUS AMOUNTS STILL AWAITED FROM 1973 PLEDGES, AND STOCKS FROM CURRENT HARVEST WOULD BE EXHAUSTED BY END OF FEBRUARY NEXT. HE CALCULATES 100,000 MT AS ADDITIONAL NEEDS FROM MARCH THRU SEPTEMBER ON BASIS OF PROVIDING THIRTEEN KILOS PER CAPITA PER MONTH.

4. IN ANSWER MINISTER'S QUESTION IF ANY REP PRESENT WAS IN POSITION PLEDGE ASSISTANCE FOR 1974, FRG AMB SAID HE HOPED HIS COUNTRY

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COULD SUPPLY 12,000 TONS. I STATED USG COULD COMMIT 10,000 MT. WFP REP SAID HE HAD NO REPLY FROM ROME, BUT THOUGHT IT OPTIMISTIC TO EXPECT WFP WOULD SUPPLY ANY MORE THAN 10,000 MT. FRENCH MADE NO COMMENT. FED, AS OF NOW, APPARENTLY CONCENTRATING ON FINDING SUPPLIES OF BUTTER OIL AND POWDERED MILK. (10,000 MT TOTAL HAVE BEEN REQUESTED). SPANISH SAID COULD OFFER NO GRAIN BUT NOTED GOS NOVEMBER DONATION 30 TONS POWDERED MILK.

5. COMMENT. ESTIMATE GIRM WILL AT BEST BE ABLE FINANCE PURCHASE 30,000 MT CEREALS FROM OWN BUDGET. ON THIS ASSUMPTION 70,000 MT WILL NEXT COME FROM FOREIGN CONTRIBUTIONS. OF THIS TOTAL THERE ONLY 42,000 MT CLEARLY ON HORIZON (WFP - 10,000; FRANCE 10,000 (NOUAKCHOTT REFTEL); FRG 12,000; USG 10,000). POSSIBLE ADDITIONAL PLEDGES INCLUDE: CHINA-LIKELY AGAIN TO DONATE ABOUT 8,000 MT; FED-5,000 MT. CANADIAN POSSIBILITIES UNKNOWN.

6. CONSIDER THAT GIRM WILL NEED, CAN RECEIVE AND DISTRIBUTE THE 100,000 MT IT PREDICTS IT WILL NEED FOR PERIOD MARCH - SEPTEMBER. REQUEST THAT WE EXAMIN POSSIBILITY OF DOUBLING OUR PRESENT PLEDGE OF 10,000 MT, DRAWING REMAINDER FROM THE AS YET UNALLOCATED 15,000 TONS OF OUR LATEST COMMITMENT OF 150,000 MT TO THE SAHELIAN ZONE. BEST GUARANTEE FOR SMOOTH HANDLING BY GIRM OF OURS AND OTHER DONATIONS REQUIRE EARLIEST POSSIBLE DELIVERIES IN CALENDAR YEAR 1974.

7. FVR FODAG, ROME: REQUEST YOU BRING MINISTER'S STATEMENT PARA 1 TO ATTENTION FAO FOR CORRECTION ITS RECORDS. WFP REP CONCURS WITH VALIDITY MINISTER'S ESTIMATE GIRM'ZIXN?945 :-0-?8)856.
MURPHY

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